

Miss Christie: I think there would be many ways young people could be brought into the plans for helping older people.

Senator Inman: I would like to endorse everything that Senator Fergusson said about the brief. I thought it was a most interesting brief and we are all interested in anything that concerns the family and children. On page 2 of the brief you mention:

Today's society has put such a premium on materialistic values that human values seem of secondary importance.

Thinking of TV's and advertising, do you consider that this is responsible for the unrest today in the people?

Miss Christie: Yes, I do.

Senator Inman: The pressures?

Miss Christie: The pressures of this kind of advertising. You see it so clearly if you are just in the shopping market. You see the youngsters wanting to have a certain type of cereal because it has certain premiums in it, and so on. As you talk with families you realize that this constant day-after-day presentation of how easy it is to get a car, a TV, or a trip that you pay for in four months—this is going on all the time. I think it causes a great deal of unrest and unease generally among families because the youngsters see this as being so easily possible and the parents are confronted with this.

Senator Inman: And this perhaps causes poverty because perhaps the parents go ahead.

Miss Christie: They go ahead and are in even more serious difficulties than contending with not having these various items.

The Chairman: May I ask a question? What you say is, of course, very true, but on the other hand does not that very same thing bring a sort of discipline into the home—the discipline of the child sitting around the table and seeing this, with the result is that the father feels he has an obligation and he cannot lie around and do nothing; he has to get out and dig.

Miss Christie: I think it does if the parents have enough strength and intelligence to be able to deal with it well. If they yield of course they get into trouble. What sometimes happens is parents tell the youngsters to keep quiet and the communication is gone. They

don't feel equal to coping with it and presenting it to their children. With others I think it can be a constructive thing and is handled that way.

I stress this very much, we do have a large number of poor families that are coping in quite a remarkable way on a very limited income and showing all sorts of ingenuity and helping their children so much with this kind of situation that has to be resolved for the better.

Senator Inman: In your recommendation number 11 you say that medicines and drugs prescribed by doctors should be provided free. I thought welfare people got them free.

Miss Christie: In this province they are given free, but they still have to pay a \$2 fee if it is an adult and a \$1 fee for each prescription if it is a child. If the family has more than two regular prescriptions a month from the same doctor there is a waiver of this fee. This seems a small amount but it is not small when things are so tight for families. Then when you get the situation of the low income family the only assistance there is the limited amount that they can secure through the out-patients department of the hospital.

Senator Inman: The reason I am asking you the question is that in several briefs it has been mentioned that the welfare people have the privilege of getting free drugs and medicines whereas the working poor, as we call them, do not.

Miss Christie: You know the cost of drugs. The prescription is paid but they have to pay in turn a small fee for each prescription.

Senator Inman: On page 5 of the brief under the heading "The Family Services' Groups for Children" you say:

The Family Services believes that much effort should be made to help the children of the poor to prevent the cycle of poverty and to give them a better start in life than their parents had. We recognize the importance of education for these children and the provision of some enriching influences which their parents cannot provide. We have begun experimenting of various approaches to help these children.

What approaches have you made and what results have you found?

Miss Christie: I have cited a few in the brief itself. This group of girls from 10 to 13,